LETTERS - F

DRAWER 26

MEETING LINCOLN

71 2009.085.02103

Meeting Lincoln

Original letters describing encounters with the 16th President of the United States

Surnames beginning with

F

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

71.2009.085.02183

C. H.

~~C. C.~~ FARMER
~~Graham-Paige~~ and Auburn
OFFICE PHONE 6133 - 328 S. WALNUT ST.
Bloomington, Indiana

Aug. 19th. 1932.

My dear Sir

I distinctly remember the shadow of gloom cast over Bedford, then a small village, by the death of Lincoln. I was eight years old, and together with some older boys, climbed into the belfrey of the old Babptist Church, on 14th. street between J. and K. during the tolling of the bell, at the funeral hour. The profound sadness made a lasting impression on my Childish mind. Chas. H. Farmer.

Bloomington
Indiana

1105 South Washington Street.

Fashier, James E.

Estherville Ia 2-11-1913
Editor Journal
I See you want to find men
who voted for Lincolen in
1860 and 1864 I voted for
Lincolen in 1860 in Davis Co Ia
and also in 1864 in Rome
Georgia when the good
People of Iowa let their
Soldiers vote in Dixie
Yours Respectly
James. E. Foshier Sen

P.S I voted for J. C. Freemont
in 1856
J. E. F.

Indianapolis
campaigning for 1st election

Fee, Armanda

Boyleston, Ind.

1932

Boyleston Ind oct 13

Dear Sir

I saw in the Indianapolis morning Times where you had tried to get all the names of those that had seen Lincoln heard him make a speech at Indianapolis when he ran for president the first time I was 10 yrs old never will forget a remark he made he said friends and fellow citizens take a good look at me and see what a good looking man you are going to throw for your next president I now think

2

after he was dead of
Indiana state in when he lay
in the State house thousands
of people saw him i have
seen 4 presidents U.S grant
theadore roselett and
Ben Harrison was a
neighbor to Harrison my
father was a republican i
had 5 brothers in the
war was also seen 15 hundred
reble soldiers that was
taken prisoner they was in
camp morton Indianapolis
i saw them marched
marched out back to their
homes in the south i was
born in february 19, 1852
was 80 last february i

3

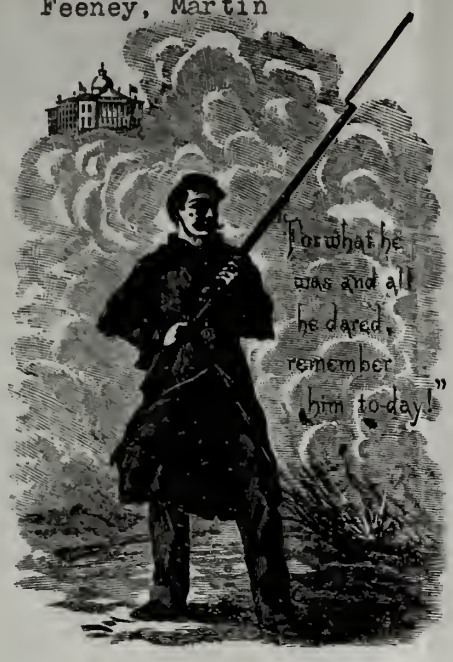
a live in Boylestown
Clinton Co Ind

Amanda Fee
Boylestown
Ind
Box 94

excuse bad writing
for i cannot see very
good

PS the times said they
had read the list of names
not one from Clinton Co
so I thought I would let
them know I was one

Feeney, Martin



Shook hands

JOSEPH E. MARTIN
ADJUTANT

CHARLES W. PARKER
COMMANDANT

Chelsea, Mass.
WILLIAM H. BLANCHARD, M.D.
SURGEON

SOLDIERS' HOME IN MASSACHUSETTS

Chelsea, April 2, 1931.

Mr. Howard K. Terry

9528 Wisteria Street

Bustleton, Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Sir:

Martin Feeney, Civil War Veteran, saw Abraham Lincoln and shook hands with him. Mr. Feeney's address is Soldiers' Home, Chelsea, Mass.

We are forwarding a copy of the Anual Report of the Board of Trustees to you, under separate cover.

Very truly yours,

Charles W. Parker,

Commandant.

Fell, I. P. Omaha, Nebr.

I. P. FELL
13TH & DOUGLAS STREETS
OMAHA, NEB. Aug 27- 1931

Mr H. K. Terry Philadelphia

Dear Sir:- Your favor 17th inst duly rec'd. I have written some short memories of Mr Lincoln that were published, but have no extra copies. However I am working on a plan to make more of the story, including items left out in an interview, which I expect to give to some paper to publish. When I do, will be glad to send you copy.

Do you know about the Abraham Lincoln Fellowship organized last year in Berkely, Calif?

I. P. FELL
13TH & DOUGLAS STREETS
OMAHA, NEB.

I permit to them a copy of
my article that appeared
in Sunday Edition of the Magazine
part of the Omaha World Herald
July 5/31.

In a short time now
those with a personal recollection
of Mr Lincoln will not be
with us and your collection will
be interesting to our successors.

You might write to Ex-Governor
of Illinois, Joseph Fifer of
Bloomington, Ills. (my home town)
who might contribute.

Wishing you success
Yours sincerely,

I. Price Fell
c/o Millard Hotel

Fell, I. P. Gray Summit, Mo.

I. P. FELL
13TH AND DOUGLAS STREETS
~~OMAHA, NEB.~~

Gray Summit Mo 1/9/37

The Lincoln Life Foundation
Ft Wayne. Ind.

Gentlemen:- In a recent Newspaper I noticed you had practically traced Lincoln's connection with the New England Lincolns, something that was long supposed, but I had not known that you were working to fill in the Links. If you have it in connected form I would like to obtain a copy.

My father, Henry N. Fell moved west from near Phila locating in Bloomington Ill in 1836 and knew Lincoln from practically that date.

Fell, I. P. Gray Summit, Mo

I. P. FELL
13TH & DOUGLAS STREETS
OMAHA, NEB.

Gray Summit Mo 1/19/32

Mr Louis A. Warren, Director
Fort Wayne. Ind

My Dear Sir:

Thank you for your favor 12th inst + Enclosures.

With this you will find my statement of contacts with Lincoln prepared especially for my family + personal friends. It is my interest you in a measure.

I have several letters from Lincoln to my father, of a business nature. Also a receipt written by Lincoln, undoubtedly with a quill pen made by my father, for $5.00 his - Lincoln's - fee in a law suit 1842

I will surely appreciate
keeping in touch with you as
you develope items of interest

Yrs sincerely,

F Price Fell

I. P. FELL
13TH AND DOUGLAS STREETS
OMAHA, NEB.

He had more or less business
with Lincoln in his law practice
and when the Circuit court met
in B— entertained Lincoln in his
home and when, as a very small
boy he took me to Springfield Ills
I was left at the Lincoln home
to play with the boys.

Our family has always
taken a deep interest in every
thing connected with his life
and that leads me to ask for
the results of your work.

Very sincerely, yours

I. P. Fell.

Gray Summit. Mo.

LINCOLN NATIONAL
Referred to _____
Recd OCT 11 1932
Answered _____
LIFE INSURANCE CO

MEMORIES OF A. LINCOLN

I. PRICE FELL

Omaha, Neb., Formerly of Bloomington, Ills.

My father, Kersey H. Fell, came west from Bucks County, Pennsylvania, just north of Philadelphia, to Bloomington, Illinois, in 1836, teaching school in southern Ohio the winter before. Illinois was fast filling up at that time and he became a surveyor and land agent, handling many land grant claims issued to the soldiers and others. In this business he became acquainted with Mr. Lincoln who suggested to him the reading of law. This he did. I have his license to practice signed by all the judges of the court.

About this time my father was married in Philadelphia, January 1, 1845. In returning west over the P.R.R.C. they crossed the mountains in western Pennsylvania by inclined planes. From Pittsburg they travelled by steam boat to St. Louis, where they transferred to another boat that carried them to Pekin, Ill., thence to Bloomington, forty miles east by stage.

It was during the winter of 1845-6 that my mother entertained the visiting lawyers in attendance at the session of the Circuit Court, presided over by Judge David Davis of Bloomington. My mother told us of the parties, how I was crawling around, how Mrs. David Davis sang a song and she even sang the song for us. This was my first meeting with Mr. Lincoln.

The last time I saw Lincoln was during the very last days of July, 1864. I was wandering around the city of Washington, taking a farewell before leaving it to attend college. I walked down a shaded path between the White House and the old war department building, frequented by the president because there he could get the latest telegraph reports on the war. It was dark, three or four dim lights along the path seemed to make it blacker than ever. I saw some one coming toward me. As the figure drew nearer I recognized President Lincoln and was on the point of speaking to him when I saw the expression of worry and anxiety on his face.

I wanted to speak to him, but I realized the load of responsibility he carried. It made me feel too insignificant to bother him, I couldn't speak.

When I was about five years old my father used to take me with him on trips around the state, made in connection with his legal business. In Springfield he always left me at the Lincoln home to play with the boys.

While my father was busy I was playing with the Lincoln boys. In the early seventies Mr. Robert T. Lincoln came to Bloomington to visit relatives for a day and I was asked to meet him. The first question he asked me was, "Price, do you remember when your father left you to play with us?"

If history could be untangled, it would show my father as the man actually responsible for the idea of Lincoln's nomination for the presidency. He was impressed with his friend's abilities and suggested him to politicians as a possible candidate. At first his recommendations were greeted with tolerant smiles. Then the republican potentates became interested, got their heads together and named Aoraham Lincoln, in 1860, as their nominee for the presidency of the United States.

A romantic, well known figure in the middle west, Lincoln was almost a nonentity in the east at that time. Mr. Fell tells how his uncle, Jesse Fell, arranged Lincoln's first appearance before an eastern public at Cooper institute. In promoting the event Mr. Fell's uncle asked the presidential candidate to write his autobiography for advertising purposes.

On two pages of note paper, the concise Mr. Lincoln wrote his life history "up to now". These original sheets are still in the possession of the Fell family and have drawn offers of several thousand dollars from historians and collectors.

I was at school at this time, but my father thought I might like a change, so he got me a job in the Internal Revenue department in Washington. My job began on August 1, 1863. Whenever my father came to Washington we used to call on President Lincoln together.

He always remembered me, calling me by my given name. Most people think of him as always serious and somber, but when he greeted my father and me his expression was most wonderfully happy.

In the late fifties and early sixties many men among the professional men including lawyers, wore heavy woolen shawls instead of overcoats. I remember seeing the lawyers in the Court House square during the sessions of court, standing in groups in conversation, with their shawls over their shoulders and among them Mr. Lincoln so much taller than the others.

In conversation, in court and in public speaking the voice of Mr. Lincoln was remarkable for its clear, high tone, its perfect enunciation which made his words express his thoughts so that everyone hearing him, perfectly understood. It was one of his greatest assets.

WASHINGTON
in
1863 - 1864

After attending school from 1851 to 1863 my father secured a clerkship for me in the Inter-Revenue Bureau of the Treasury department of which Judge Joseph J. Lewis of Pennsylvania was commissioner. On August 1, 1863 my work commenced and continued until

August 1, 1864, when I left to enter Williams College, Williamstown, Mass. At that time the dome of the capitol building was not quite finished and the Goddess of Liberty, in many bronz parts, was fenced in at the north side of the stairs leading to the Main Entrance of the building. Before I left she was in place in all her majesty of pose and shining like a new penny.

The Washington Monument stood 156 feet high when the Civil War commenced and closed the activity of the Societies in all the states that had contributed the funds for its building. All the open land around it was used as a cattle yard for serving the Army.

The open Creek, one or two blocks south of Pennsylvania avenue, which made the land the Monument stood on, an island had not been filled in.

There were hospitals in and all around the city. The streets were very poorly paved and the city outside of the Government buildings looked very shabby.

The Fourth of July, 1864, I spent in and around WestChester, Pennsylvania, where we had lived in 1855 and 56 and the train I returned to Washington on was the last to reach the city for ten days, as the confederate army cut off all rail connections with the North. One or two days the cannon could be heard north of the city. During that time the clerks in all the departments were enrolled in companies, many of which were sent to the numerous forts surrounding the city. At this time the President and Secretary of War, Stanton, were seen, daily, riding about the city in an open barouch. Lincoln with his extra high hat practically straight up with a narrow brim and Stanton with his low flat crowned and broad-rimmed Panama hat making a picture to always remember. As a side light on the Lincoln hat I may add that the winter I spent there brought me my first high hat, built exactly on the lines of the President's with a brim so narrow that it was hard to lift it from one's head.

It must have been in July, 1864, that General Burnside marched his newly recruited and uniformed army from the north through the city, passing along 14th street in front of the old Willard Hotel, where Lincoln and Burnside reviewed them from a small balcony on the second story just large enough to hold thetwo. The Treasury building being only a block away I had the chance to see the procession several times during the day.

Eleven months of the year I lived, roomed, and boarded with Mrs. Danenhauer, whose husband was auditor in one of the departments and whose son was afterwards Lieutenant Denenhauer of the disastrous Artic expedition. My roommate was a messenger boy in the military telegraph office. Several others from that office boarded at the same place including Mr. Bates, who has written his war time experiences.

My roommate had to work until eleven o'clock every other night and when he came in he always had some new story that the President had told them. What a story his (Lincoln's) stories would make now if I could have written them down.

At the telegraph office there was room for Mr. Lincoln to rest in, as many times he spent a good part of the night there during critical times in the war. It was then that the stories were told and it was in the shaded path running from the White House to the old time War Department building that I saw my friend Mr. Lincoln for the last time as described elsewhere.

Early in April, 1865, I ran down from college to Philadelphia to meet my mother who was on a visit with friends in and around the city. We met at the Continental Hotel on Chestnut Street and spent the night there. In the morning I reached the dining room a short time before she came in. While sitting there I noticed the newspaper, a man was reading near me, had heavy black border running completely around the pages. In a moment the paper was turned around and I saw the announcement of the assassination of the President and then understood why the room seemed so deathly quiet. It was then that my mother came in and I went to meet her, but for moments I could not tell her. The same intense feeling was in the streets everywhere. People could hardly speak when they met and then only in very quiet tones. Later, when the funeral passed through the city, I saw the crowds bewildered in their grief.

From the city I went west to St Louis for a few days and while there saw the Catafalque in the old Court House. Then, with a friend, I went to Springfield, Illinois, the day before the funeral there. As we could not find sleeping quarters we passed through the old state capitol building several times to look upon the face of our great President. The next day after the passing of the funeral procession we went on to Bloomington for a much needed rest.

The theaters of Washington during my stay were a constant source of wonder and enjoyment to me. All the great actors and actresses with their supporting companies made their appearances to appreciative audiences. Edwin Booth was just reaching his greatness and always held me spellbound. It was a real treat to pass him in the street with his long black cape and his wonderfully graceful movements.

Edwin Forrest was just passing his zenith, but with his wonderful voice still held his audience. Lester Wallack and E. L. Davenport were always fine and with Charlotte Cushman in "Still Waters Run Deep" drew the finest houses. J. V. Clark, who excelled in his comedies was enjoyed by large audiences. I believe that he married Edwin Booth's daughter, her mother was the daughter of McVicker of the old Chicago theatre of that name. (Nearly thirty years later I met Clark's son who was playing in a theatre in Paris, Tex. and I rold him that he had the wonderful deep brown eyes of Edwin Booth.)

There were many actresses too, who played their parts equally well. During that winter there came to the old Ford theatre an English actor named Toole with his English company playing comedies. At one of his performances I became so convulsed with laughter that I had to be carried out of the theatre.

F. Price Fell

P. O. Box 1266
Fell, Mrs. Margaret

Toulow, Ill.- courthouse

Toulow, Ill.

Great Southern Life Insurance Company

E.P. Greenwood, President

Houston, Texas

ELMER H. BUFFUM
INSURANCE
TOULON, ILL.

October 5, 1932

Dr Louis A. Warren
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Sir,- I have learned, thro an article in the Peoria Star, that you are interested in securing the names of those who saw the immortal Abraham Lincoln.

Mrs Margaret (Nicholson) Fell, of Toulow, Illinois, born here Feb. 17 1846, saw him Oct. 6, 1858, when he spoke at the court house in Toulow. (Stephen A. Douglas spoke here Oct. 8.)

There may be others here, also. There were several, but they have died in recent years. I knew several who rode out on horseback, and escorted the great Lincoln into Toulow.

I will suggest that you write

Ficker, Mrs. Jennie Springfield, Marengo, Ill.

Marengo, Ill. Oct. 19, 1932

Dr. Louis A. Warren
Fort Wayne, Ind.

Dear Sir,

Mrs. Jennie Fickes, 83 years old last april lived in Springfield, Ill. when a girl and remembers seeing Abraham Lincoln when he was campaigning for the presidency. She also saw him playing ball in his back yard with his three ~~boys~~ and as she and her playmates were passing Mr. Lincoln patted them on their heads. ~~She~~ was so fond of children

Mrs. Fickes is very active and just returned from a visit in Springfield to her home with me in Marengo, Ill. She saw on this visit a man, Mr. Micheal Carroll, 92 years old who remembers more about Lincoln than she does. His address is ~~South~~ Routt Street, Jacksonville, Ill.

Respectfully
Mrs. May Eichler

First, Henry C.

"I Saw Lincoln"

Full Name Henry C. First

Present Address 1031 - 21st St. Rock Island, Ill.

Date of Birth Year 1839 Month July Day 7th

Place of Birth Pretz - Schleswig Holstein

Where you Saw Lincoln Chicago, Ill.

When You Saw Lincoln I was an honorary

Remarks: - guard at Lincoln's bier

when his body lay in state

in Chgo on way from

Washington to Springfield.

I did not see him alive but

only in his casket.

First, Rev. Henry C.

HENRY C. FIRST
Department Commander,
Rock Island, Ill.

WM. O'CALLAGHAN
Senior Vice Department Commander,
Joliet, Ill.

GEO. A. ROBINSON, Junior Vice
Department Commander, Belvidere
J. H. Crowder, Chaplain, Bethany
J. R. Buchan, Medical Director, Chicago

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS.

Grand Army of the Republic

Member of Executive Committee National
Council of Administration for Illinois
William P. Wright, Post 91, Chicago

Office of Assistant Adjutant General
Memorial Hall, Chicago, Ill.

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LINCOLN NATIONAL
MAIL DEPARTMENT
Referred to
REC'D SEP 3
Answered
LIFE INSURANCE

Mr. L. A. Warren
Fort Wayne, Ind.,
Dear Mr. Warren;

Your kind letter is at hand and I thank you for the enclosures. Owing to a previous engagement it would be impossible for me to be present on the important occasion, as much as I should like to be.

Cordially yours,
H. C. First mat.

First, Henry C.

FIRST

HAYES, LOEB AND COMPANY
7 SOUTH DEARBORN STREET
CHICAGO CENTRAL 1520

August 26, 1932

Dr. Louis A. Warren, Director
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Dr. Warren:

Attached is a newspaper clipping which gives us a thought that Rev. H. C. First should be invited to the Dedication. I do not think his name appeared on the list which we furnished Mr. Rowland's office and I would appreciate your taking the matter up with him.

As you possibly know, I plan to be in Fort Wayne next Monday and at that time we can make definite arrangements for your proposed trip to Chicago.

Cordially yours,

C K Hayes

Vice President

CKH:kam

Hirst, Henry C.

TIPS AG[illegible] LIMIT

Rev. H. C. Eirst, 93, of Rock Island, chosen to lead the Illinois G. A. R., is believed to be the oldest commander ever elected. He was a guard at the bier of President Lincoln.

Fisher, Joseph New Philadelphia, Ohio Toledo, Ohio

"I Saw Lincoln"

LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE MAIL DEPARTMENT
Referred to
RECD SEP 7 1932
Answered
FT WAYNE, IND.

Full Name Joseph Fisher

Present Address 2638 - 118th St. Toledo

Date of Birth Year 1852 Month May Day 21

Place of Birth Tuscarawas County New Phila Ohio

Where you saw Lincoln New Philadelphia Ohio

When you saw Lincoln Oct. 1858

Remarks:-

Lincoln wished to speak to all the children under ten years of age and father was among them. As he could not get around to the stairs he climbed over the side and Lincoln saw him and reached over and helped him up and [illegible] told him that any boy that was so anxious to get up there would make a great man some day. there was a very big parade that day.

Yours Truly. J. Fisher

Fisher, Joseph Toledo, Ohio

Toledo O.
Aug 22 1932

Lincoln National Life Foundation.
Fort Wayne Ind.

Who Knew Lincoln,

My Father, Wm. J. Fisher of Muncie Ind., is Spending the Summer with me at Toledo O. 2638-118th St.

Who's age is 80 and Past, and also Talked to Lincoln at New Philidelphia Ohio. When he made his Speach on a platform in 1858. & Talked to him as he held him in his arms.

Would like very much to get a reply.

2638-118th St Wm O.A. Fisher

DAVID N. FOSTER
715 COURT STREET
FORT WAYNE, IND.

May 20, 1930.

Mr. Howard K. Terry,
Bustleton,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Dear Mr. Terry:

It is some little time since I received your letter in which I was much interested. I am sending you another - an autographed copy - of my address on Mr. Lincoln.

A few years ago I made a special trip to Springfield, Illinois, in order to visit Mr. Lincoln's tomb.

While there I visited the only home he ever owned. I was amused and interested in a story I was told about the home.

It was but a one story house when purchased. Mrs. Lincoln was socially ambitious and desired that it should be improved and made into a two story house. Her husband did not feel they could afford to go to that expense. In those days lawyers had to go all over the state with the court and frequently it would take five or six weeks to go over the circuit. Mrs. Lincoln had received a small legacy and secretly she had plans prepared and during one of these long absences from home of Mr. Lincoln had the work quickly done and finished before his return. Then in the evening when he was to reach home she posted herself behind the shutters of the parlor window to watch results. As her husband reached his home he looked up at it, pretended to be puzzled, crossed the streets to opposite corners looking about and then waiting until a boy came up he stopped him and said, "Say boy can you tell me where Abe Lincoln lives?" Before the boy could answer Mrs. Lincoln called out, "Send the old fellow over here, I'll show him."

I was presented when I visited Springfield with a piece of the old flooring of the room in which the

DAVID N. FOSTER
715 COURT STREET
FORT WAYNE, IND.

Mr. Howard K. Terry. #2

Committee of the National Republican Convention notified him of his nomination for President which I have placed in our Historical Museum.

Very sincerely yours,

David N. Foster

Foster, David N. ~~Col. Daniel~~ Cooper Institute Speech Fort Wayne, Ind.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS
CITY HALL PHONE A-3350
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

DAVID N. FOSTER, PRESIDENT
FRED B. SHOAFF, VICE PRES.
SAMUEL WOLF
BYRON E. HATTERSLEY

A. K. HOFER, DEPT. ENGINEER
ADOLPH JAENICKE, SUPT. AND FORESTER
CECILIA M. WELCH, SECRETARY

September 8, 1932.

Dr. Louis Warren,
c/o Lincoln Life Insurance Company,
City.

My dear Doctor:

General James Stevenson, Civil War Veteran of Indianapolis, Indiana, is 95 years of age. He did not know or hear Abraham Lincoln but did see him. They report to me he is too feeble to make the trip and be present at the unveiling.

The oldest Civil War Veteran in the state is Colonel Wright who has past his 100th year. He also is too feeble to attempt any trip from home.

Grand Army Headquarters at Indianapolis reports that so far as they know I am the next oldest Civil War Veteran in Indiana. I saw, heard, and had the privilege of going upon the stage and shaking hands with Abraham Lincoln on the occasion of his Cooper Institute speech in February, 1860.

Very truly yours,

David N. Foster

5803 E Washington

Ind 9035

DNF:B

Foster, Mrs. Fannie

Greenwood, Ind.

Greenwood Ind.

To the Lincoln National Life Foundation. I saw in a News paper where you were looking for some one. that had known Lincoln or had been seen. I saw him in Indianapolis Indiana. in March of 61- as he was on his way to Washington to take the presidential chair as he road with Governor O P Morton, & other high officials of the State as they were driving over the streets of the city. in a large vehicle drawn by four white horses, I heard him deliver his address from the balcony of the old Bates house. now the Claypool Hotel. I saw him again in

2 ea

64. When he layed in the state ~~capitol~~ capital of Indiana. While his casket was draped with the American flag & guarded by Soldiers of the federal Army -.

Very respectfully

Mrs Fannie Foster

Greenwood

Indiana

I was born in Indiana polis in 1844 February 26th

Foster, Mrs. Fannie

Indianapolis - on way to Wash.
Indianapolis - Funeral
Greenwood, Ind.

Greenwood, Indiana
Sept, 10th, 1932

The Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Gentlemen:

I saw in a newspaper where you were looking for someone who nad known Lincoln or had seen him. I saw him in Indianapolis Indiana in March of 1861 as he was on his way to Washington to take the Presedential Chair. He was riding with Gov. O. P. Morton and other high officials of the State in a large vehicle drawn by four white horses. I heard him deliver his address from the balcony of the old Bates House which is now the Claypool Hotel. I saw him again in 1864 when his body lay in state at the Capitol in Indianapolis. His casket was draped with the American Flag and gaurded by soldiers of the Federal Army.

Yours very respectively

Mrs Fannie Foster

Mrs Fannie Foster
Greenwood, Indiana
Born in Indianapolis Feb. 26th, 1844

Fouke,,Richard R. Freeport, Ill. L.-D. Debates Alameda, Calif.

I Was Born on The 21 of Jan 1844 at Sheppards Town Jefferson Co Va Both of my grand Fathers Lived in the Same place My Grand Father on on my Fathers Side Was in the War of 1812 he had 11 Children 10 Boys 1 Girl and all Strong Whigs of German extraction My Grand Father on my Mothers Side Whose name was Thomas Hessey Had a family of 9 Children all Born and Raised in the Same Town and County but Grand Papa Hessey Was a Slave Oner and a Radical Democrat My mother had 3 Children 2 Boys 1 Girl My Mother Died when I Was Less than a year Old So the Boys were Raised By our uncles While the Girl Was Raised by my mothers Father So in 1848 My Father took My Brother and went to Ills to Where he had a Brother So I was left With my uncle in Va in 1849 the Gold Rush My Father left my Brother in Ills and made the trip by ox Team to Calif So in 1855 My uncle with whome I lived Sold out and went to Ills and took me a long So in 56 at the age of 12 I Carried a Lamp in the Wide awake Procession for John C Fremont against James Buchan in 57 My uncle Died and I was

a long I lost the Best frend I had So things were Very Blue I ll was a new Country So I went out in the Country made a Bargin with a farmer to Keep me until I was 21 years of age and he was to Clothe and Send me to School in the Winter he was a Strong Douglass Democrat every thing was Lovley heard nothing of my Father I had Seen the Fruits of Slavery in my Young Days in Va So in 1860 the Real Blue Came up and I fully made up my mind to be an abloonist I Read every thing I Could get So when it be Came Known That Mr Lincoln & Mr Douglass Was to have their Joint Debate in Oct 1860 I determined I would hear him Speak We lived in a town Mt Morris Ills 20 miles from Freeport but as Luck would have it Mr Lincoln Came in to our town the day befor the debate and visited our School and Shook hands with all us boys So I went Home told the folks I was a going to Freeport to hear Mr Lincoln Speak my Boss Says you will go to work What do you Know about Speaches all Right I Says So I went up Stairs put on my Best a blue Pr of over Halls walked 5 Miles to a frend of mine

over

3 That D Knew was a gonne Stayed all Knight
And was in Freeport next day in plenty of time
to march in the prosesion that escorted him to the Stand
heard the Debate That D will never forget and after
the Speach Shook Hands with the Grandest Man
that America ever Had and his name will go
down with me to the end

D hope D will not annoy you With this Longe
Statement if D do Just drop it in the waste Basket
Well D Come Home Only Wishing D Could Vote
for Lincoln but D got What you might Call it a (H)
of a Shaken up but D went to Work all Right and
in April 1861 The Call Came for 3 months men My
Brother was 7 yrs older than me So he enlisted the
1st man in our town to enlist in the 7 Ills Inft Co C
he Served 4 yrs was in that Hell Prison Andersonville
O how D longed to go but no use too young So D
Corresponded with my Brother after the Battle of Fort
Donelson D was bound to go but they Kept me out
until May 7-62 When D got in to the 69 Ill for
3 months they Kept us 4 months after being Discharged
Oct 17, 62 D reenlisted for 3 yrs in the 14th Cavelry
D was taken Prisoner on the Stoneman Raid near
Macon Georgia made my escape and here I am to day
a member of appomatox Post G A R

1424 Santa Clara ave Alameda Calif
3rd : 7 : 1930

My Dear Mr Gerry

Your Kind letter Recived this morn as you did not mention in your letter whether you were a Comrade or the Son of a Comrade So you Will Pardon me in my addressing you as Mr as you Seem to be interested in the Boys of 61 - & 65 and also in Our Noble Standard Bearer the Immortal Lincoln the noble Emancipator I am Pleased to Give you in Brief my acutal experience as age is Fast Putting its Stamp upon our ability to be as Lively as We were in those Days gone By So I hope you Will Pardon my poor Penmanship and Poor Spelling

hope my Little History will be of Some Intrest to you Thanking You for your Kind favor

I am Respectfully Yours

Richard R. Fouke

Co. K. 69 Ills Infty also Co D 14 Ills Cavelry

Lenght of Servis 34 Month enlisted May 7. 1862

mustered out July 31 1865

My Brother Died at the age of 81
And if I live to the 21 of Jan I will be 87
Thank You
Would Be pleased to hear from you again

RAN AWAY TO SEE LINCOLN.

Richard R. Fouke, 424 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda, Calif., served two enlistments in the Civil War. He first got in Co. C, 7th Ill., which was a three months' regiment, then in Co. I, 14th Ill., for three years. In his first enlistment, however, he gave Uncle Sam good measure—he stayed in a month over time, being assigned to conduct prisoners to exchange near Memphis. Before the war Comrade Fouke, as a little codger, had the honor of shaking hands with Lincoln. He ran away from home during the Lincoln-Douglas debates and got as far as Freeport, where he heard one of the debates and got a chance to shake the hand of the future President. During the war he helped run down John Morgan in Ohio, was in the siege of Knoxville, the Atlanta campaign, and after Hood (in Thomas' army) in Tennessee. Comrade Fouke's grandfathers were both in the War of 1812.

Nat Tribune
5/31/29

Fox, Cyrus | Second Inaugural | Reading, Pa.

336 Greenwich Street,

Reading, Pa, April 20th, 1914.

Mr. Howard L. Terry,

Tacony,

Philadelphia.

Dear Sir:

I have your letter of yesterday. In regard to writing for you my recollections of Lincoln, I regret to say that this I cannot do, for lack of time. I am a busy man, at my age of 81, my hours running from 5 o'clock in the morning to 9 o'clock at night, when I am ready to retire.

However, I am enclosing portions of my Lincoln address, which inspired the comments of "Girard", in the Phila. Inquirer, to which you refer. This address was delivered on my 81st birthday anniversary, on the 12th of March last, in this city. It occupied two pages of the Reading Eagle, and took one hour for its delivery by me. Three other addresses were delivered by me this spring, within a period of one month, the last on April 11th, subject: "The Surrender of General Lee at Appomattox".

Thanking you for your congratulations, I am, Yours, very sincerely, Cyrus L. Fox

Part 1

Following portion of Mr. Fox's address on his impressions and remembrances of Abraham Lincoln relates to the 2nd inauguration of Lincoln as President on Saturday, March 4th, 1865:

STRIKING SCENES.

"It was directly after 1 o'clock in the afternoon when he made his appearance before the immense crowd that had gathered.

"The oath of office for his second term as President of the United States, had previously been administered to him by Salmon P. Chase, then Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

"The rain had ceased, but the sky was beclouded. Just as Lincoln was finishing his brief inaugural address, a ray of sunlight appeared through a rift in the clouds, and brightened the top of Lincoln's head.

"At the same time a white pigeon flew across the sky and lodged in a corner of the portico above where Lincoln stood.

"Many who saw this incident termed the bird a Dove of Peace, and predicted that the war would soon end.

HAD A GOOD POSITION.

"I had a good position in the audience to enable me to see all that took place. I had stationed myself there in good time, while it was still raining.

Lincoln held a paper in his hand from which he read his inaugural.

"On the platform, just below him, were the justices of the United States Supreme Court, in their official robes; the diplomatic corps in their uniforms and innumerable officers of the government, including soldiers in uniform.

SECOND INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

"Portions of his address will be given herewith. Midway therein he said:

" 'Fondly do we hope, fervently do we pray, that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet, if God wills that it continue until all the wealth piled by the bondman's 250 years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash shall be paid with another drawn with the sword, as was said 3,000 years ago, so still it must be said: 'The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.'

"The inaugural concluded with the following memorable words:

" 'With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphans, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.'

* * * *

NOBODY sings about old Herb Hoover or old Al Smith, yet both are older than was Lincoln in 1860 when the most popular campaign song ran:

"Old Abe Lincoln came out of the wilderness,
Down in Illinois."

The more recent song about the "Old Gray Mare" borrowed the tune from that political ballad shouted by the Wide Awakes.

In Reading dwells the veteran journalist, farmer and orchardist, Cyrus T. Fox, who in 1860 organized a band of boy Wide Awakes. They marched in all the Berks county political parades during that stirring campaign.

Mr. Fox is the only man I know who heard Lincoln's second inaugural address—the one which closed with the famous peroration—"With malice toward none, with charity for all."

* * * *

* * * *

THAT lively newspaper, the Reading Times, celebrated last week its seventieth birthday.

It did that thing in noble fashion, but especially in having Berks county's foremost literary sage, Cyrus T. Fox, write some of his personal recollections.

Mr. Fox, who is only eighty-one, is just four days older than Reading as an incorporated city, so what Mr. Fox says is not in the nature of hearsay evidence.

That nestor of Berks journalists says the Reading Times got a big start in the Civil War by stoutly upholding Lincoln. "It was," wrote Mr. Fox, "second only in Reading to The Philadelphia Inquirer, which, on account of its full and reliable dispatches, was regarded as one of the ablest journals in the country."

But stoutly as the Times upheld Lincoln, it scarcely exceeded the rest of Berks county in that respect.

* * * *

WHAT was the toughest sight ever seen by a newspaper writer active for more than sixty years?

Mr. Fox answers that. He has witnessed hangings, terrible railroad wrecks and the horrors that followed Gettysburg, but the worst was the railroad riot in Reading fifty-one years ago this month.

He was a live reporter in those dark times in '77 and for three nights he never went to bed, but no wonder.

Within 100 feet of his own birth house Mr Fox saw nineteen persons slain and seventy-five others badly wounded during that fearsome labor war.

Progress in Ameriea can be measured in nothing so vividly as in our far advance beyond those panic times when fifty cents was for hundreds of thousands of men a full day's pay.

I thought of Cyrus T. Fox the other day when a Montgomery county farmer pointed to his thirty-aere field of potatoes. "What variety?" was asked.

"Early Rose," was the farmer's reply. It was Mr. Fox who sixty years ago first brought that potato to Pennsylvania.

GIRARD

Part 2.

Following portion of Mr. Fox's address covers the conversation that he had with Abraham Lincoln, on the White House grounds, on Sunday morning, March 5th, 1865:

AGAIN AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

"The next morning, Sunday, March 5, I was again at the White House. I had lost a glove the night before, on the outside near the entrance.

"Boy-like, I went there, thinking I might find it. Whatsoever small articles had been dropped there were irretrievably lost, for they had been dragged along and trampled in the mud.

"I then passed around the east side of the White House to the grounds in the rear, which extend to the Potomac river.

GOOD LOOK AT MRS. LINCOLN.

"I intended to stop at the Washington monument. This was scarcely more than one-fourth completed. All through the war work upon it had been suspended. Now, with its height of over 500 feet it is an outstanding object.

"As I passed along slowly, I took a good look at the rear portion of the White House. At a second story window I saw Mrs. Lincoln, who had just stepped up to it, for the purpose of drawing down a shade. In the short interval I had a good view of her, the same as I had the night before at the reception.

"She was short and stout, and there was a great contrast, as to stature, between her and Mr. Lincoln.

RECOGNIZED THE PRESIDENT.

"Walking leisurely I saw suddenly, as I glanced around, a tall man, wearing a high silk hat, as he emerged from the White House. I at once recognized him as the President.

"I stopped for a moment, as he came, walking towards me.

"He hailed me, and I waited for him to approach.

"'I believe you are the young man,' he commenced, 'who was at the reception last night, and said that he was from Berks county, Pennsylvania.'

"'That is true, Mr. President,' I said.

"'What can you tell me about my Berks county ancestry?' he inquired.

"'Come and have a seat with me,' he continued.

SAT IN A PAVILION.

"Close by was a small pavilion, or arbor, inside of which was a seat.

"He bade me to sit down beside him.

"Then he resumed the conversation.

"'I have heard that my ancestors lived in Berks county,' he said, 'and that some went from there to Virginia, and eventually landed in the Southwest country.'

"I then informed him of what I knew about his great-great-grandfather, Mordecai Lincoln, and of the Lincoln house in Exeter township, about one mile from Birdsboro.

GAVE LINCOLN SOME FACTS.

"Unfortunately, I was not as well posted in regard to facts concerning this early homestead, as I am now, but told him what my father knew, who was born in 1806 about three miles away.

"I concluded by saying: 'But Mr. President, you should visit the home of your ancestors.'

"'That I would be glad to do,' he replied, 'could I but leave Washington. For the present I must remain here.'

"'If you come,' I said, 'I will be pleased to accompany you to the Lincoln house.'

"'I hope to make the visit,' Lincoln said.

"This concluded the conversation.

REPEATED TO IDA M. TARBELL.

"This has been repeated by me to Ida M. Tarbell, author of several works on Lincoln, including his Life in two volumes, and to other historians, who called upon me.

"But Lincoln's visit to Berks county never materialized. In 30 days after the foregoing conversation, he had fallen, a victim of an assassin's hands.

"I shall never forget the memory of that interview with Abraham Lincoln, his kindly eye, and the pat on the shoulder that he gave me when we separated. Would that he had given me some souvenir.

SEEN IN THE MIND'S EYE.

"I have often seen him in my 'mind's eye,' crossing the White House lawn as he approached me. His tall lank figure, clothed in black, could never be forgotten.

"It has been said that Lincoln was a man of homely looks, ungainly and uncouth.

"To some he may have appeared so, but 'the sunlight of the soul' can make an ungainly face look beautiful.

WORE BEARD AND WHISKERS.

"I have been asked as to whether Lincoln wore a beard when I saw him. He did. It was short and closely cropped with narrow side whiskers extending from his ears and meeting the beard.

"He was smooth faced, according to portraits, when he ran for President in 1860. After he entered the White House, he permitted his beard and whiskers to grow.

CARICATURES A SACRILEGE.

"I have seen many pictures and imprints of Lincoln's face, some of which appeared to me as more or less caricatures.

"I have seen actors attempt to represent his appearance. To me, this seemed a sacrilege.

"His figure in a sitting position in the magnificent 'Lincoln Memorial' building in Washington by Daniel Chester French, an American designer and sculptor, has been viewed by me at different times, from various angles. To me, it has seemed overdrawn. This appearance, of course, is due to the statue being of 'heroic size.' The general outlines and the features are good. The position in the large chair is rather squatty.

Freeman, J. H. Burial - Springfield, Ill. Aurora, Ill.

J. H. FREEMAN
~~205~~ FOX ST.
AURORA, ILL.

509

Mr. Howard E. Terry
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Sir:

Replying to yours of the 4th. inst:

I never saw Pres. Lincoln alive, although I was in the White House two or three times during the Civil War. When his body was removed from one place in the Springfield Cemetery to another tomb, I was one of the three officials who had charge of that removal, and saw "Honest Abe's" face at that time.

I served in the Civil War as 2nd. Lieut. in Co. G. 23d. Maine Inf'y, and as Captain in Co. H. 14th. Maine Inf'y. I know of no person living in Aurora at the present time who ever saw that world known statesman.

Sincerely yours
J. H. Freeman

Freeman, ~~J. H.~~ Mary A. Burial at Springfield Aurora, Ill.

J. H. FREEMAN
265 FOX ST.
AURORA, ILL. Oct 4 - 1931

Mr Howard K Terry
Philadelphia
Penn

Sir
Your letter
of Sept 22 - 1931 is before me forwarded
from Springfield. Ill - Mr Freeman
passed away the 12th of June last.
I was with him near the Lincoln
monument when the body of our
murdered President was removed
from a vault heavily capped
with stone a few feet away
from the monument to a
Chamber within the monument.
Several State officers among
whom Mr Freeman of the Office
of Public Instruction viewed
the Remains and gave testimony
that they were those of Pres. Lincoln.
I recall that he said, the hair and
whiskers were intact; and of the
features I am uncertain, but I think
he said they could be identified

Respectfully
Mary A Freeman

Fuller, J. W. Fort Monroe Long Beach, Calif.

Long Beach Feb 6th 1932

Mr Terry
Philada Pa

Dear Sir

In answering your letter I would say I saw Mr Lyncoln quite a number of times during my 3 Year service of 3 Years in the 11 Pa Cavalery. One little incident that accured at Fortress Monroe I surely remember distinctly There was about 35 soldiers in a room as Orderlies to carry dispatches for Gen Wool of Mexican Fame Mr Lyncoln came through the Room and we soldiers had to Stand and give him the army Salute. When he came into the Room the Seckond he said never mind that Foolishness it is only Old Abe

Youre Truly
J. W. Fuller

PS next birthday 90 Years old

FUNK

New Lexington Ohio
September 5-1932

The Lincoln National Life Foundation Ft Wayne Indiana

Gentlemen—

While reading in Columbus citizen I noticed article—

Did you ever see Abraham Lincoln? Yes
Did you ever hear the sound of his voice? Yes
Did you ever shake his hand? Yes
And also state first rate ever cast was for Abraham Lincoln Republican vote.

I am past 86 yrs. old, was in company G. 31 O.V.I.
Was with Gen. Sherman on his march to the sea.
I expect to attend National Encampment at Springfield Ill. from 18-to-24 of this month

Very Truly
George W Funk
New Lexington
112 W. Jefferson St Ohio

LINCOLN NATIONAL
MAIL DEPARTMENT
Referred to
REC'D SEP 10 1932
Answered D
LIFE INSURANCE CO.

LETTERS - F DRAWER 26 MEETING LINEN